

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Official Action dated September 9, 2010.

Claims 1-22 were pending in the application.

Claims 1-22 were subject to a restriction requirement.

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 9-22 have been withdrawn.

By way of this amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 remain pending in the application.

Election:

Claims 2-3, 6 and 9-22 were withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species.

Claims 2-3, 6 and 9-22 have been indicated as withdrawn and will be canceled or reintroduced pending reconsideration of amended claim 1 and an indication of allowable subject matter.

Rejections under 35 USC §112:

Claims 1, 4-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite.

In Claim 1 the Examiner objected to the recitation of “said complementary part” as it lacked antecedent basis. The applicant has amended claim 1 to positively recite the “complementary part” as a part of the invention located on the frame.

In Claim 7, the Examiner objected to the recitation of the “pressure exerting means” being “of similar material” to the “edge strip”. The applicant has amended claim 7 to correct the issue.

Reconsideration is requested in light of the noted amendments.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(b):

Claims 1, 4-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Terpestra USP4684466. The Examiner cited Figs. 1-4 as disclosing a filter having all of the claimed elements.

Claim 1 has been amended and therefore the rejection is believed to be moot.

Please consider the amendment and the following remarks regarding Terpstra.

Terpstra discloses a high pressure press that receives a filter screen 7. A frame of the press has an annular recess 3, which receives a body of a separate metal ring 8 with a flange 9. The flange 9 extends radially inwardly of the frame so that it holds the edge of the filter screen 7 between its body and its flange. The filter screen comprises a woven gauge point 10, a first mesh screen 11 and second mesh screen 12. One or both of the screens 11 or 12 are a perforated plate. Therefore, two components of the filter being held by the metal ring 8 are rigid components that are configured to substantially support their own shape. A cord or spring 13, 15 is wedged between the body of the metal ring 8 and the recess 3 to press the body against the frame member and prevent disentanglement of the filter member from the ring. The body of the ring and the frame have complementary shaped parts, with a slight curvature.

The applicant's arrangement is for a filter cloth not a rigid self-supporting filter. A filter cloth would not work alone in the Terpstra arrangement, as a cloth needs to be gripped securely in order not to sag or even disengage. Furthermore, an inflexible metal ring and spring/cord is not very easy to assemble or user friendly and can cause injury to the assembler.

The applicant's arrangement is an improvement over Terpstra, because it provides a cloth filter, which provides a much finer filter. Furthermore, the applicant's arrangement provides a flexible edge strip arrangement, such that the pressure exerting means not only retains the elongate body of the edge strip in contact with the frame, but also grips the cloth and is easy to assemble and disassemble without causing injury. In other words, the applicants' arrangement offers a finer filter, has a wider application of use and is user friendly.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the edge strip member comprises "flexible rubber, synthetic rubber or a plastic material with rubber-like properties". The claim comprises a filter cloth.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the arrangement in amended claim 1 is novel and inventive over the Terpstra arrangement.

Reconsideration is requested in light of the amendments.

Claims 1, 4-5 and 7-8 were also rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Heckl (USP 4580623). The Examiner cited Figs. 1 and 2 as disclosing all of the elements of the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended and therefore the rejection is believed to be moot. Please consider the amendment and the following remarks regarding Heckl.

Heckl discloses a filter press plate with a flexible filter panel 3 that is formed with the frame 2. A filter cloth lies on the panel, the panel acting to support the cloth. Again, one component of the filter is a substantially rigid component that is configured to substantially support its own shape. Furthermore, the filter cloth does not appear to be held or gripped by an edge strip member.

To reiterate, the applicant's arrangement is for a filter cloth not a rigid self-supporting filter. A filter cloth would not work alone in the Heckl arrangement, as a cloth needs to be gripped securely in order not to sag or even disengage.

The applicant's arrangement is an improvement over Heckl, because it provides a cloth filter, which provides a much finer filter. Furthermore, the applicant's arrangement provides a flexible edge strip arrangement, such that the pressure exerting means retains the elongate body of the edge strip in contact with the frame and grips the cloth in a taught arrangement, which improves the efficiency of the cloth filter (as opposed to the cloth resting on a panel). In other words, the applicants' arrangement offers a finer filter, which is more effective, has a wider application of use and is user friendly.

Accordingly, the arrangement in amended claim 1 is believed to be novel and inventive over the Heckl arrangement.

Claims 1, 4-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Hibble WO 2004030790. The Examiner cited Figs. 8 and 10 as disclosing the claimed invention.

Claim 1 has been amended and therefore the rejection is believed to be moot. Please consider the amendment and the following remarks regarding Hibble.

Hibble discloses a rubber cloth connector ring (42, 44) that is attached to a filter cloth (22). The connector ring is inserted into a receiving channel (46, 47) in a filter plate (20) or frame and hooks under a projection in the channel. A locking ring (62, 64) is wedged in the channel alongside the ring to hold it in place. The connector ring can be made from rubber, plastic or cloth. However, Hibble does not disclose that the filter cloth is connected to the connector ring (edge strip) by flaps and instead only considers means of connection such as sewing and welding onto the connector ring.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the edge strip member receives the edge of the filter cloth between two flaps and is secured between the flaps by stitching, welding, adhering, or by extrusion onto the edge strip.

Accordingly, the arrangement in amended claim 1 is believed to be novel over the Hibble arrangement.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully solicited.

PTO is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #02-0900.

Respectfully submitted,
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